

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BARI AND FOGGIA: FIRST REPORT ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

REF: NAPLES 141

1. IN THE NAPLES CONSULAR DISTRICT THE ONLY TWO PROVINCES WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SPRING'S CYCLE ARE FOGGIA (CITY AND PROVINCE) AND BARI (CITY ONLY). CONSENSUS IS THAT DESPITE MINOR GAINS BY THE PCI AT THE EXPENSE OF THE DC (A SHIFT OF ONE, OR LESS LIKELY, TWO SEATS IN EACH ELECTION) THE DC AND ITS CENTER-LEFT ASSOCIATES WILL EASILY MAINTAIN CONTROL.
2. THE JUNE 1975, BARI PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS SET A PATTERN WHICH MOST CONTACTS BELIEVE WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE BARI CITY AND FOGGIA CITY AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS THREE MONTHS FROM NOW: THE DC LOST ONE SEAT

PAGE 2 RUFLSKA5258 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO THE PCI. THE CURRENT BARI PROVINCIAL GIUNTA (DC-PSI-PSDI) IS BACKED BY 20 VOTES OF 36. THE PARTIES OF THE BARI CITY GIUNTA (DC-PSI-PSDI-PRI) NOW HAVE 39 OF 60 VOTES. IN FOGGIA THE CENTER-LEFT IS STRONGER: IN THE CITY THE DC-PSI-PSDI-PRI GIUNTA HAS 34 OF 50 VOTES AND IN THE PROVINCE THE DC-PSI-PSDI GOVERNMENT HAS A MAJORITY OF 24 OF 30. NO PROBABLE SHIFT FROM THESE 1971 RESULTS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE GOVERNMENTAL STATUS QUO.

3. IT IS NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, THAT IN THESE TWO CITIES PESSIMISM AND CONCERN ARE WIDESPREAD AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES RE THE COMPLETE

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LACK OF PROGRESS THUS FAR TOWARD "RENEWAL" OF THE DC PARTY, THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY, THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE CIA AND LOCKHEED

SCANDALS, AND THE FEAR THAT THESE AND OTHER FACTORS WILL INEVITABLY
CONTINUE TO LEAD TO FURTHER COMMUNIST ADVANCES NOT ONLY NATIONALLY
BUT ALSO LOCALLY. THE RELATIVE ELECTORAL STRENGTH OF THE LOCAL
CENTER-LEFT IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE LESS-THAN-CONFIDENT OUTLOOK OF
THE PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES. COLANTONIO
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